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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF ULVERSTON.

ANNUAL
REPORT

Of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF
HEALTH,
FOR THE YEAR 1938.


ULVERSTON:
KITCHIN & CO., PRINTERS, 7 MARKET STREET.
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RURAL DISTRICT OF ULVERSTON.

TOWN HALL,
ULVERSTON,

April, 1939.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1938, which deals with the Sanitary conditions of the district under my supervision as your Medical Officer of Health.

INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

In preceding Annual Reports I have spoken with a certain amount of hope that our Chief Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Hudson, would ultimately be restored to health and usefulness. Unfortunately this hope has not been fulfilled, and in the end he has been obliged to retire on pension. I need scarcely say how much I feel the loss of an old friend and colleague, with whom it has been a pleasure to work for so many years. I am sure I shall express the hope of all who have come into personal contact with Mr. Hudson when I say that I trust he may be spared for a few years to enjoy his retirement.

I consider myself, after one or two changes, to be distinctly fortunate in securing the services of two very able and energetic young men in Mr. Harrison and Mr. Bolton. Both have displayed an aptitude and keenness for their work, which is most encouraging for the future.

The monthly reports of the Inspectors gives some idea of the work which is being done, and much of this by interview and peaceful persuasion, rather than by resort to legal process, and I trust that it may not be necessary to make any further change for some time.

WATER SUPPLY.

GENERALLY.—So far as those parts of your district already provided with a supply of water by gravitation is concerned, there has been no need to restrict consumption, and the quality of the water has been beyond question ; but there are parts of the district where the supply has, for years, been inadequate and generally unsatisfactory. Schemes have been promoted for supplies in these districts and although the necessity has been recognised to be most urgent, practically no progress has been made with this object in view. It is not a question of a delay of a few months, but in most cases the delay has extended over a period of years, and there can be no necessity for this. One does not like to feel that the foremost consideration is one of finance and that the question of safeguarding the Public Health is a matter of quite secondary importance. Details of the various schemes that have been promoted are dealt with in the remarks which follow and the time that some of these have been under consideration makes one feel that there might be some speeding up of our efforts.

ALDINGHAM (Roosebeck, Coast Road and Newbiggin).—In a previous report I have mentioned that the Barrow Corporation have extended their main to our boundary and this is available for further extension to houses in your district, and although the need is as urgent as ever, it has been decided, for financial reasons, to postpone further consideration of the question, but I trust the postponement may not be prolonged.

CARTMEL.—It was reported in October that it was proposed to establish a Territorial Army Camp at Flookburgh and subsequently the Council was asked to supply water to the Camp. How best to do this will be a question for the Engineer.

COLTON (Oxenpark and Bandrake Head).—It is gratifying to be able to report that the consent of the Ministry to a loan for the supply of water to Oxenpark and Bandrake Head has been obtained, and the laying of the necessary mains and provision of a storage tank are making satisfactory progress, with every prospect of the district being furnished with an ample supply in the near future.

BLAWITH.—The necessity for a supply of water to Blawith and some of the near-by dwellings has been emphasised in previous reports, and a scheme has been prepared by your Engineer. The sub-committee charged with the consideration of the matter decided that before proceeding further with the question the Clerk should prepare a report as to the financial position of the Parishes concerned. This was on the 18th February, 1938. I am hoping that this report will shortly be in the hands of the sub-committee, and that it may be such as to enable the provision of a supply, which is urgently needed, to be carried out.

COLTON (Lakeside and Finsthwaite).—I reported last year that the Ministry had refused their consent to the scheme of water supply to Lakeside and Finsthwaite, whereby the Council were to abstract water from High Dam. The reasons for the refusal were that bacteriologically the water was unsatisfactory and the terms for the abstraction of the water demanded by the Owner were too stringent. The Ministry suggested that the Council should revert to their original plan, viz., the abstraction

of water from Bortree Tarn. Acting upon this decision the Engineer was instructed to prepare a scheme for a supply from this source and his plans are now in the hands of the Ministry, who ask to be informed upon what terms the owners will permit water to be taken from the tarn, and I take it we shall make no further progress until this information is forthcoming, and it is most desirable that every effort should be made to avoid the inconvenience which the inhabitants of this district have suffered for many years during periods of drought.

BOUTH.—I must not omit in this connection to draw the attention of the Council to the urgent necessity for a supply to Bouth, a village of 50 houses. The supply, at present, is by two pumps which are not easily accessible, and cannot be considered satisfactory. With the hope that a supply will shortly be provided for Lakeside, supplementing the Haverthwaite supply, we should consider the desirability of extending this main to the village.

HAWKSHEAD.—On account of the anxiety which was caused in a dry season by the partial failure of the supply to Hawkshead, it has been decided to more than double the capacity of the supply tank, and this should avoid any future trouble.

OUTGATE.—It is beyond my memory to say how long the Council has had under discussion the supply of water to the Hamlet of Outgate. To say that the existing supply is inadequate and unsatisfactory would be to put it mildly, but the difficulties encountered in finding a suitable source and the opposition of owners of supplies must be some little excuse for the delay, but I do hope the Council will not relax their efforts to put an end to a condition of things which is not very creditable. Quite recently your Engineer has been investigating

prospective sources of supply and it is to be hoped that, in the very near future he will be able to promulgate a scheme.

PENNINGTON (Swarthmoor).—Complaints have been frequent as to the unsatisfactory supply of water to Swarthmoor, and with a view to bringing about some improvement in existing conditions, a conference was held with the Ulverston Urban Council, who are the undertakers, and from whose reservoir at Pennington the supply is obtained. It was decided that the existing 9-inch main from the reservoir to a point near Loppergarth should be taken over by the Rural Council, and extended as a 9-inch main to Cross-a-Moor, from this point a 5-inch main will be laid to supply Swarthmoor. It is hoped that by this means all further complaint of a failure in the supply will be avoided.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

CONISTON.—In my report for the year 1937 I mentioned that tenders had been invited and accepted for a sectional scheme of sewerage and sewage disposal for Dixon Ground Cottages and including the Railway Station. It appears that difficulties have arisen in negotiating a wayleave for the pipe line through Dixon Ground Farm Yard. It was left with your Clerk to make the necessary terms, and I presume we can only await the result of the negotiations.

Work is now proceeding on a sectional scheme which includes Haws Bank and Park Gate, the sewage to discharge into a tank below Haws Bank.

HIGHFIELD COTTAGES.—If the promises which have been repeatedly given had been fulfilled, the drainage of these four cottages, so urgently needed, would have been completed

many months ago. The necessity for the scheme has never been doubted, but in spite of all promises and many meetings, nothing has been done, and I can only suggest that the Council should now take drastic action.

BACKBARROW AND BROWEDGE.—It is not easy to remember how long it is since a scheme for the sewerage of this part of your district was considered an urgent necessity, and plans have been submitted by your Engineer to the appropriate sub-Committee, who considered that it was advisable to have a more comprehensive scheme, which has meant that although the necessity was deemed to be urgent, no scheme at all has been provided. However, your Engineer has under preparation another scheme and it would be well to again call a meeting of the sub-Committee.

URSWICK (Much and Little Urswick).—I am quite aware of the physical difficulties of providing a scheme for the more efficient drainage of the villages of Much and Little Urswick, but with the extension of building operations it is well that we should not lose sight of what has been a necessity for many years.

HOUSING.

Satisfactory progress has been made with the Housing Programme of the Council. After some delay, due to causes over which the Council had little control. 25 houses in the Backbarrow and Haverthwaite area have been closed and the tenants re-housed in the houses forming the new estate, and from all that one can hear the change is greatly appreciated. In my report for the year 1937 I noted that the Ministry had issued their Order for the closure and demolition of 24 dwellings at Coniston and

49 in the Kirkby Ireleth Township. Land has been obtained at Coniston and Kirkby and your Engineer's plans and estimates for the erection of the houses necessary to re-house the displaced tenants are now before the Ministry.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1938.

Number of new houses erected during the year :-

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b))	.. .. .	75
(1) By the Local Authority	.. .. .	27
(2) By other Local Authorities	.. .. .	—
(3) By other bodies or persons	.. .. .	48
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :		
(1) By the Local Authority	.. .. .	27
(2) By other bodies or persons	.. .. .	—

1. *Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year :*

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)...	.. .. .	472
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ..	.. .. .	494
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	.. .. .	—
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose...	.. .. .	—

- | | |
|---|-----|
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | 22 |
| (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | 130 |

2. *Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notice :—*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	81
---	----

3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :—*

A.—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	4
---	---

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:

(a) By owners	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	3

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	130
--	-----

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice :—

(a) By owners	2
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	—

C.—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ..	2
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	1

D.—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	1
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ..	—

4. *Housing Act, 1936.—Part IV.—Overcrowding:—*

A.— (i) Number of Dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	35
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein ..	35
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein ..	245

B.—Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	0
C.— (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	1
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	11

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

Regular Inspections are made of the many Cowsheds in your district, and includes the animals housed therein. Although your Inspectors express their satisfaction at the general desire which is displayed to ensure that the milk produced should be of a good quality, there is not sufficient evidence of systematic grooming of the flanks and the washing of the udders which one would wish to see.

In the Northern District, four new Cowsheds have been built and fourteen old ones have been remodelled. In the Southern District three new sheds have been constructed and thirteen reconditioned and brought more up-to-date.

HOUSE REFUSE REMOVAL.

I have invariably spoken favourably with regard to the very valuable work which was being carried out in this important department of Public Health administration, and I regret now to have to say that the cost of the service is becoming such a severe charge upon the rates that the Council has been obliged to nominate a sub-committee, whose duty it will be to consider whether some efficient and less costly method of performing the work cannot be adopted. It would seem that the tenders for the work received from Contractors have increased to an extent

which is not commensurate with the extra work to be done, in fact one feels that the Authority is being subject to gradual exploitation. I hope the sub-committee will be able to present such a report as will enable the excellent work to go on.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES AND MEAT INSPECTION.

I am pleased to be able to say that much more than ordinary care is given to the inspection of meat in your district. The Council will realise the difficulty of making systematic inspection at the time of slaughtering in a scattered rural district, but I feel satisfied that every attention is devoted to the work. The Slaughter-Houses are generally, both structurally and positionally fairly satisfactory.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres) 127,485.

Population (1921) 18,523

Population (1931) enumerated 16,719.

Number of inhabited houses, 4,983.

Rateable value, £71,375.

Amount produced by a penny rate, £272.

POPULATION.—I think it will be quite safe to estimate the population as being the same as in 1937, at any rate, any variation that there may be should not disturb the accuracy of the statistical calculations which follow :—

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.		Total.	Male.	Female.	Rate per 1000
Legitimate	..	183	73	110	
Illegitimate	..	17	6	11	11.9
TOTALS		200	79	121	

In the year 1937 there were 192 births, producing a birth-rate of 11.4 per 1,000.

DISTRIBUTION OF BIRTHS.

	1st quarter		2nd quarter		3rd quarter		4th quarter		Total		Rate per 1000
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Cartmel ..	8	8	1	8	7	5	6	5	2	26	9.2
Broughton West	4	16	9	9	5	9	6	7	24	41	16.1
Dalton ..	5	6	7	11	3	7	2	5	17	29	13.8
Ulverston ..	3	9	3	5	4	6	6	5	16	25	9.8
Totals	20	39	20	33	19	27	20	22	79	121	11.9

DEATHS.

To arrive at a correct estimate of the deaths and the death-rate, it is necessary to take first the total number recorded as occurring in the district, deduct from this number the deaths of persons arising in the district, but who were not ordinarily resident, and to the result add the deaths of persons belonging to the district, but who have died outside. I find that the total number of deaths occurring in the district has been 203, from these must be deducted the deaths of 19 non-residents, and the deaths of 54 persons ordinarily resident in the district must be added, giving a corrected total of 238, and the rate per 1,000 equal to 14.2. In the year 1937 there were 256, and the rate per 1,000, 15.3

DISTRIBUTION OF DEATHS.

	1st quarter		2nd quarter		3rd quarter		4th quarter		Totals		Rate per 1000
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Cartmel ..	6	9	7	9	10	8	8	9	31	35	12.8
Broughton West	10	6	13	11	8	5	7	7	38	29	16.4
Dalton ..	8	5	8	7	4	3	8	7	28	22	15.0
Ulverston ..	6	6	6	7	12	5	3	10	27	28	13.2
Totals	30	26	34	34	34	21	26	33	124	114	14.2

AGE PERIODS AT WHICH THE DEATHS OCCURRED:

				Male.	Female.	Total.
Under 1 year	..	..	..	6	8	14
Between 1 and 65	..	..	..	39	30	69
65 and Upwards	..	..	..	79	76	155
Totals				124	114	238

INFANTILE DEATHS.—From the foregoing table it will be observed that in infants under one year of age there have been 14 deaths, 6 male and 8 female, the death-rate per 1,000 births being equal to 70.0 At the same age period last year there were 12 deaths, the Infantile Death-rate being then 62.5 per 1,000 births.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE INFANTILE DEATHS.

	Cartmel.		Broughton West.		Dalton		Ulverston		Total	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Premature Birth	2	3	1	..	1	..	..	..	4	3
Congenital Defects	..	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	1	2
Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Pneumonia	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	1
Meningitis	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Totals	2	4	2	2	1	2	1	..	6	8
Rate per 1000 Births	30.4		61.4		65.2		24.3		70.0	

In the Cartmel Area the Infantile Rate would at the first glance, appear to be much too high for a Rural District, but from the table it will be seen that 5 of the deaths have been due to Prematurity of Birth, which may be looked upon as a non-preventable cause.

TUBERCULOSIS.—The following figures give the number of cases of Tubercular Diseases notified and the number of deaths registered from the various forms of Tuberculosis.

				New Cases				Deaths			
				Pulmonary Tuber- culosis.		Non- Pulmonary Tuber- culosis.		Pulmonary Tuber- culosis.		Non- Pulmonary Tuber- culosis.	
				M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Cartmel	..	..	..	2	1	1	4				
Broughton West	..	..	..	1			1	1			
Dalton	..	..	..	3	3	2		1			
Ulverston..	..	..	..	2	2		1				
Totals				8	6	3	6	2			

AGE PERIODS OF NOTIFIED CASES AND DEATHS.

Age—Periods			NEW CASES				DEATHS			
			Pulmonary		Non- Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non- Pulmonary	
			M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Years.										
0—1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1—5	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..
5—10	..	..	..	..	2	4	..	..	..	..
10—15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
15—20	..	..	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
20—25	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
25—35	..	..	1	4	..	..	1	..	..	..
35—45	..	..	2	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
45—55	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
55—65	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
65 and upwards			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals			8	6	3	6	2	..	..	..
			14		9		2			

The death-rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis has been equal to 0.11 per 1,000 of the population. For the County of Lancashire for the year 1937, the death-rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis was 0.46 per 1,000; for Non-Pulmonary, 0.10, and for all forms, 0.57, so that we make a fair comparison, as of course we should being a Rural Area.

CANCER. DISTRIBUTION OF DEATHS.

			Male.	Female.	Total.	Rate per 1000
Cartmel	..	..	2	5	7	1.34
Broughton West	..	..	2	5	7	1.73
Dalton	..	..	4	3	7	2.10
Ulverston	..	..	4	6	10	2.40
Totals			12	19	31	1.86

ORGANS AFFECTED AND AGE PERIODS AT WHICH THE DISEASE HAS OCCURRED.

	15-25		25-35		35-45		45-55		55-65		65 up.		Total.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Breast	1	..	..	1
Intestine	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	4	3	2	5	7	..
Esophagus	1	..	1	..	..
Liver	2	..	2	..	..
Stomach	1	1	1	1	1	2	3	..
Prostate	1	..	1	..	..
Thyroid	1	..	..	..	1	..
Larynx	1	..	1	..
Throat	1	..	..	1	..
Bladder	1	..	..	..	1	..
Uterus	1	..	..	..	1	..
Rectum	1	..	..	2	1	2	..
Vagina	1	..	1	..
TOTALS	1	..	..	..	..	..	2	3	8	9	8	12	19	..

It will be noted that the death-rate from Cancer has been equal to 1.86 per 1,000 of the population, last year it was 1.9. For the Administrative County of Lancashire for the year 1937 the rates were for Urban Districts, 1.61, and for Rural Districts, 1.47. For England and Wales the Cancer Death-rate was 1.63 per 1,000, so that the comparison does not show our district up in a very favourable light. The increase, generally, is affected by the fact of the increased longevity of the people, Cancer being a disease, mainly, of later life, and also by the greater accuracy in diagnosis, but, no matter how we look at it we are bound to admit that we are not making any great progress in getting the better of the disease.

ZYMOTIC DEATHS.—From diseases of this type, usually designated Fevers, there have been two deaths, one from Diphtheria in a boy aged 11, ordinarily resident in the Cartmel District, and the other from Malignant Scarlet Fever in a boy aged 4, both deaths occurred in the Fever Hospital. The death-rate from Zymotic Diseases is equal to 0.11 per 1,000.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE CASES.

		Cartmel		Brough- ton West		Dalton		Ulvers- ton		Total		
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Scarlet Fever	5	4	8	14	3	5	1	2	17	25
Diphtheria	9	5	1	..	..	1	5	1	15	7
Erysipelas	1	..	..	..	..	2	2	3	2	
Pneumonia	2	..	1	1	1	..	2	2	6	3
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Puerperal Pyrexia		1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	2
Totals			17	10	11	16	4	6	10	7	42	39

AGE INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Disease.	Total Cases	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	65 up-wards	Cases Removed to Hospital	Deaths in Hospital
Scarlet Fever ..	42	..	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	65 up-wards	33	1
Diphtheria ..	22	..	..	4	1	2	13	12	2	5	2	1	..	..	24	1
Erysipelas ..	5	..	..	..	..	1	4	14	..	2	..	1	..	..	4	..
Pneumonia ..	9	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	3	1	..	5	..
Encephalitis		..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	3	..	1	1	1		..
Lethargica	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Puerperal		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		..
Pyrexia	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	1	..
Totals	81	..	..	4	1	3	21	26	3	12	2	6	2	1	70	2

SCARLET FEVER.—Referring to my entry of the cases of Scarlet Fever notified, I find that there has been no regional and no periodic prevalence of the fever and there has not been any suspicion of an epidemic.

DIPHTHERIA.—Early in October there was an outbreak of Diphtheria amongst the children attending the Leven Valley (Haverthwaite) Schools and as the infection was obviously spreading through school contact I asked for an Order to close the School. Usually I do not favour this procedure as a means of checking the spread of infection, but in this case I deemed it advisable as the children were drawn from districts remote from each other. Certainly, in this case, what threatened to be an epidemic was checked. Twenty-one cases were admitted to Hospital, and there was one death.

IMMUNISATION.—During the year I have subjected to protective immunisation 505 children, these, together with those already treated will make the total number 856. Estimating the school population of your district as being approximately 1,500, the number of children immunised is about 60 per cent., and considering the great importance of the treatment, I should not consider this satisfactory. In one of our large towns 120,000 children were inoculated during the last fourteen years and among that number there have been no deaths, among those not inoculated there were 952 deaths from Diphtheria. It is a pure tragedy that there should be so many deaths from Diphtheria when we have a method of protection from attack, at once so simple and so harmless, and I am convinced that a general adoption of the prophylactic inoculation would cause the virtual disappearance of the disease.

INFLUENZA.—Although this disease is not notifiable I judge that there has been no extensive prevalence during the year.

LABORATORY WORK.

The Laboratory work of the Council is carried out, chiefly, at the Wigan Infirmary, Pathological Department.

The following examinations have been made :—

Throat Swabs	..	..	..	..	92
Blood	..	..	..	..	6
Food	..	..	..	..
					—
					98
					—

All sera are supplied free to Medical Practitioners.

In concluding my report, I must not neglect to express my gratitude to the Council and my Colleagues for their constant co-operation and assistance.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

G. H. PATTERSON.

L.R.C.P. Lond., M.R.C.S. Eng., D.P.H. Lond.

Medical Officer of Health.

6th April, 1939.

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF ULVERSTON.

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTORS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1938.

	Southern Area.	Northern Area.
Complaints received	42	29
Houses and premises inspected	335	136
Informal notices served	95	73
Statutory notices served	22	—
Cases of over-crowding reported	—	—
Nuisances abated	25	15
Plans approved	83	44
New houses provided with W.C's.	63	7
Houses disinfected after infectious diseases	39	22
Cases of bedding destroyed	—	1
Privy accommodation provided	—	—
Water-closets substituted for privies ..	35	25
Ashpits or middensteads emptied	2290	1275
Removal of accumulations of refuse or other offensive matters	6	1
Drains trapped or repaired	—	—
Orders issued for protection or improvement of water supply	—	11
	lbs	lbs
Weight of Meat and Offal condemned—	4247	2610
Slaughter-houses registered	1	2
Slaughter-houses licensed	11	3
Slaughter-house inspections.. .. .	270	395
No. of Bakehouses	6	6
Bakehouses inspected	6	6
Inspections under Factory and Workshops Act	7	3
No. of Dairy Farms	196	172
Approximate number of Cows	2746	2165
Dairies and Cowsheds inspections	182	163
No. of Dairymen or Purveyors of Milk ..	3	—
No. on Register	3	—
Schools disinfected	3	—
No. of Ashbins substituted for fixed receptacles	77	45

J. HARRISON (Southern Area) } *Sanitary Inspectors.*
N. R. BOLTON (Northern Area) }



